

TOWN OF BLADENSBURG NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Hello Town of Bladensburg!

As summer fades and fall arrives we are reminded that Fall is a time for renewal of the spirit and mind. This promise of a renewed spirit reminds me of how blessed I am for the community I live in, my family, and for all life has to offer, not just during the fall, but throughout the year.

I have often said there is a spirit of service at the heart of our community that holds us together. Each of us here believes in our Town and our residents. We believe in the vitality of our neighborhoods, our businesses, our schools, our places of worship, the strength of our families and the diversity of our community. We are inspired by the community service of countless residents. When we work together, we can overcome any challenge we may face, and that together we will make Bladensburg a better place.

Fall is also a time of great activity in the community; school is back in full swing and our youth are actively involved in playing sports in various school activities. It is good to see our young Bladensburg citizens taking part in school sports and activities. Their involvement in these activities helps to build confidence, install discipline and teach leadership skills. Our young citizens are our community's greatest asset and are our current and future leaders. *Please take the time to support our youth by attending a game or a performance. I am sure it will make them feel special and happy to see their community attend their events.*

As the Mayor, I realize how important it is to keep everyone informed about what is going on in the community. It is our goal to communicate better, save money and be green by corresponding electronically as



- Walter James, Mayor

much as possible. To assist us in reaching out to as many residents and businesses as possible, we are encouraging everyone to provide us with your email addresses. Please contact Chi-chi Dureke, our Marketing Coordinator at cdureke@bladensburg.net to have your name and email address added to the Town's E-Blast mailing list.

Finally, I want to take a second to recognize how hard our staff works every day to keep the Town running smoothly. Most of us do not realize how hard their jobs are or how good they are at them. The next time you see a staff member, please thank them for their dedication and commitment to improving our quality of life. Letting them know we appreciate everything they do for us, will mean a lot to them.

Very Respectfully

Walter James, Mayor

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Secretary of Commerce

Michael Gill

visits Town of Bladensburg

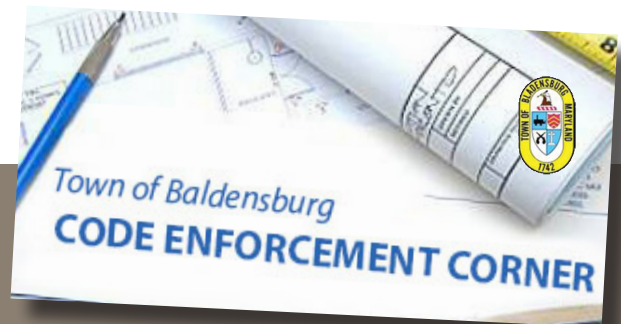
On Tuesday, October 4, 2016, Secretary of Commerce Michael Gill joined the leadership of the Town of Bladensburg and Mr. Jim Coleman, Executive Director of the Prince Georges County Economic Development Corporation (PGC EDC)

to begin a dialog on what the Town is doing to move the community forward in achieving economic prosperity. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss ways in which the Town, the PGC EDC, and the state can work collaboratively to encourage business growth and investment and bring an economic boom to Bladensburg.

"Bladensburg has all of the potential that is needed to be a successful municipality," said Coleman. "We have the tools at the EDC to restore Bladensburg back to its glory days and we are going to make that happen." "The Town of Bladensburg was honored to have had the presence of Secretary of Commerce Michael Gill and Mr. Jim Coleman as they stood in solidarity with our community as we work in a collaborative fashion to forge forward to build an economically viable and sustainable community. As Secretary Gill said, "Let's Stay Together", as Mayor I could not agree more. "We are stronger and better together." Kudos to our Town Administrator, Mrs. Debi Sandlin for doing a great job in presenting the Town of Bladensburg and our proposed path forward, to economic vitality. "Special thanks to Council Member Ficklin for his leadership in working with our staff to put together this very important event", added Mayor James.

"Economic development is a team sport," said Debi Sandlin, Town Administrator. Both the public and private sector need to work together collaboratively to achieve the goals and objectives of the community. "At the end of the day, any redevelopment/economic development strategy cannot be accomplished in a vacuum, collaborative partnerships are a must for success to be achieved," concluded Sandlin.

Secretary Gill echoed Ms. Sandlin's Team Sport analogy and stated, "I really do believe that success starts with strong economic development policy and culture. Everyone sitting here today is a part of that culture and are a part of the team that is going to make Maryland, Prince George's County and Bladensburg a great success!" concluded Secretary Gill.



Here are a few important things you should know and reminders from the Bladensburg Code Enforcement office.

Before you light the fireplace for the first time please have a licensed Chimney sweep check and clean of your Chimney if necessary. If you are collecting firewood, please stack your firewood at least 18 (eighteen) inches off the ground to prevent any rodent from making the firewood pile a home.

As the leaves fall from the trees please DO NOT burn the leaves. Burning the leaves causes a fire hazard for your home as well as your neighbor's homes. Instead, rake your leaves to the curb in front of your home but please do not block the sidewalk or place them in brown paper bags and put them out for collection on Wednesdays.



If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give us a call or e-mail at 301-927-0330 code@bladensburg.net and remember...if you see something, say something.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



Eric Watson, Gary Turner, Awner Fuentes, Ronald Alston Jr.
The Town of Bladensburg's Hardworking
& Wonderful Department of Public Works
supervised by Mr. Purnell Hall

Garbage Junk & Bulk TRASH SCHEDULE

Tuesday	Household Trash/ Building Material
Wednesday	Recycling/Yard Waste/ Brush
Friday	Household Trash/Bulk Trash by Appointment Condominiums

**1. Residential Leaf Vacuum starting
Nov.3rd 2016–Mid-December 2016.**

To find out your collection scheduled please refer to the
Bladensburg cable channel 71.

**2. Residents please take the time to help keep the
community clean by simply picking up any trash/
litter on the curb line in front of your property.**

3. Tree Limbs/Yard Waste must be tied up in small
bundles NO longer than 3-4ft. Yard Waste includes leaves,
tree limbs, grass, flowers, soft plants and trimmings, and
weeds.

4. Hazardous Materials must be taken to Prince George's
County facilities (Brown Station landfill) 301-883-5045

Bulk Trash Call (301) 773-2069 Every Friday.
Call before 2pm on the Thursday Before.

Next Generation

Creatively Changing Our Community

We generally picture libraries as large buildings, constructed of stone and brick, materials meant to stand the test of time like the Bladensburg Library built in 1925. Seventeen year old Guillian Canete is changing the way we borrow books by creating 'Little Free Libraries'. Patrons in our community can borrow a book to read or donate a book to share with others in these small bird houses.

This Fall/Winter Guillian will build and design 3 different versions of the 'Little Free Library'. The locations of the 'Little Free Libraries' will consist of: Bladensburg Town Hall, The Community Center and at the Waterfront Park. These libraries have become popular in towns, cities and neighborhoods.

As a graduating senior in High school Guillian says that he is doing this for two reasons. "I want to make my parents proud and I also want to help increase the amount of reading and literacy in young people's lives in however way I can. Most importantly I want to make my parents proud." said Mr. Canete. Guillian plans on completing the 'Little Free Libraries' by the end of November or beginning of December 2016.

Town of Bladensburg is proud to help our youth in making a positive difference in our community by using his creative talents and ideas.



*Little girl reading in front of
a 'little free library'.*



Guillian Canete
Community Spotlight

Meet The New Marketing COORDINATOR

CHIDINMA DUREKE



The Mayor and The Town Council are pleased to announce Chidinma Dureke as the Marketing Coordinator for the Town of Bladensburg, Maryland. Ms. Dureke began this brand new position.

Ms. Dureke's strategic and creative ways have landed her work in featured publications such as The Washington Post, Baltimore Sun Newspaper, Essence.com; The Sun Newspaper and she's produced work for Hype Hair Magazine and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), not to mention small, medium and large local businesses. Chi-Chi will be in charge of developing content for social media campaigns and identifying social media platforms to promote Town events and programs. Additionally she will be responsible for developing the Town's quarterly newsletter, press releases, designing promotional materials and managing the website.

"We are thrilled to have Chi-Chi join our team," commented Debi Sandlin, Town Administrator. "With Chi-Chi's impressive work ethic and her experience in developing marketing campaigns, I am confident she will hit the ground running in promoting the Town of Bladensburg to both internal and external stakeholders as well as improving our community outreach," added Sandlin.

"As a young millennial, creative and entrepreneur who is a native of Prince George's county, I am so excited for this opportunity to bring my rich perspective, new ideas and marketing expertise to the Town of Bladensburg's team" stated Dureke. "Based on my experience, expertise, knowledge and education in Fine Art and Design, I am confident that I will be a perfect fit for implementing successful marketing campaigns as the Town's Marketing Coordinator. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Mayor, Council, community, amazing staff and friendly Police Department" concluded Ms. Dureke.

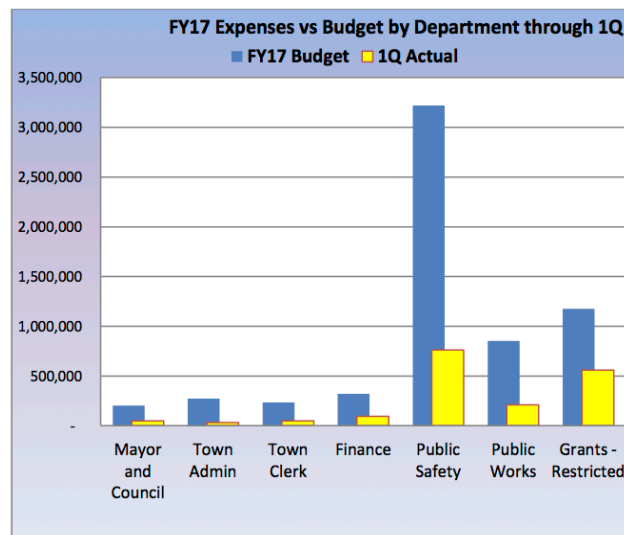
Chidinma Dureke graduated in 2011 with honors from Frostburg State University with a BFA in Graphic Design and Painting. Before joining the Town of Bladensburg team, Ms. Dureke designed (WSSC) Newsletters. While working as a graphic designer and artist, she won the 2015 Prince George's County Forty UNDER 40 Award, Arts & Humanities. In addition, Ms. Dureke has her own business CHDesignz LLC.

Ms. Dureke can be reached by e-mail at **301-927-7048 Ext.106** or by e-mail at cdureke@bladensburg.net

Treasurer's Corner

from Vito Tinelli

Financials – We have completed the first quarter of our fiscal year running July through September and we are running under budget for our operating expenses. The chart below shows the expenditures by department as compared to the annual budget. While still early in the year, this is a positive trend we hope flows through out the rest of the fiscal year.



Business Personal Property Taxes – We love our business community but we also have a fiduciary responsibility to the Town and its citizens. We will be looking to make sure that businesses are in "Good Standing" with the State of Maryland's Department of Assessments and Taxation and that Bladensburg is listed as a location for personal property. To see if your business is in "Good Standing", go to www.dat.maryland.gov and under "Online Services" on the left side, and select "Search the Business Entity Database".

If you need help to see if your business is in "Good Standing" or if Bladensburg is listed as a personal property location. Please feel free to send Vito an email at vtinelli@bladensburg.net Thank you and hope you have a prosperous fall and winter!



Fall has been busy filled with special events in the Town of Bladensburg. Officers participated in community activities each weekend. On September 3rd, officers from our COPS Unit teamed up with Kisha James, First Lady of Bladensburg, to host Autumn Woods Community Day at our Satellite Office at 5012 57th Avenue. There were games for the kids, a DJ, dancing and safety information was provided. Three Brothers Italian Restaurant and Papa Johns donated pizza and Mayor James cooked hotdogs on the grill. The event served as a bridge building opportunity between our



officers and the community.

On September 10th, the local Mexican Independence Day celebration was held in the Town of Edmonston. Officers from the Town of Bladensburg assisted with the event under our mutual aid agreement.

The 20th Annual Port Towns Day was held on September 17th at Bladensburg Waterfront Park. Officers from Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City and Edmonston along with Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department assisted with the traffic control and public safety needs of the event. A short video entitled '[Port Towns Day 2016](#)' with highlights of the event has been posted at YouTube.com.



Bladensburg High School's Homecoming was on September 24th. The Bladensburg Police Department and Bladensburg Volunteer Fire Department assisted with their Homecoming Parade which traveled several of the streets of Bladensburg.

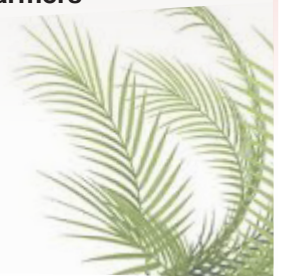
Town of Bladensburg Master Gardener

Discover the Outdoor

Meet the Town Of Bladensburg's Master Gardener volunteering to create a healthier Community. Esther Rice, has been a Bladensburg resident since 2001, she has become a Extension Master Gardener. She is part of a volunteer program held by University of Maryland extension that trains individuals in the science and art of gardening. These individuals pass on the information they have learned during their training, as volunteers who advise and educate the public on gardening and horticulture.



Mrs. Rice is pictured above in the purple shirt received her grant to be in this program through the Friends of Quincy Run's Storm Water Management Program. To receive her Master Gardener (MG) Certificate, Mrs. Rice will be volunteering her time clearing and preparing the grounds of the Riverdale Mansion; and assisting Master Gardeners at area library lectures. Additionally, she assisted other Certified MGs at area Farmers' Markets during the summer, including the Bladensburg Eco Farms Farmer's Market. "Our table is called Ask an Expert - Plant Clinic", commented Mrs. Rice.



Mayor & Town Council

Mayor

Walter James
wjames@bladensburg.net

Ward II Council Members

Council Member Beverly Hall
bhall@bladensburg.net

Ward I Council Members

Council Member Selwyn Bridgeman
sdbridgeman@bladensburg.net

Council Member Walter Ficklin
wficklin@bladensburg.net

Council Member Chris Mendoza
cmendoza@bladensburg.net

Town Administrator

Debi Sandlin
dsandlin@bladensburg.net



POSTAGE
CLEAR
ZONE

Town of Bladensburg
4229 Edmonston Road
Bladensburg, MD 20710

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

- 5th** 10 am-2 pm.....Strategic Planning Session for Mayor & Council
- 11th** Veterans' Day.....Town Offices CLOSED
- 14th** 5:30 pm.....Mayor and Council Work Session
7:00 pm.....Mayor and Council Meeting
- 24th** through NOV 25.....Thanksgiving Holiday
Town Offices CLOSED

DECEMBER

- 9th** 5 pm-8 pm.....Town Yule Log and Tree Lighting
- 14th** 5:30 pm.....Mayor and Council Worksession
7:00 p.....Mayor and Council Meeting
- 26th** Christmas Holiday.....Town Offices CLOSED

TOWN OF BALDENSBURG
IS GETTING

SOCIAL!

TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
FOR WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS
ELBLASTS&UPDATES
CONTACT

CHI-CHI DUREKE
CDUREKE@BLADENSBURG.NET